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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Washington

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Vegetables

FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

January 27, 1932

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WINTER VEGETABLE SITUATION IN MEXICO AND CUBA 1/

A cold wave in the winter vegetable producing area of the Mexican West Coast beginning on January 5 and continuing for several days is reported to have seriously damaged the growing crops. Information as to the exact extent of the losses to the various crops is not yet available but estimates indicate losses to tomatoes ranging from 15 to 60 per cent, depending on locality. Losses to chili peppers are reported to be about the same as for tomatoes but the damage to peas is expected to be considerably less. In Cuba weather conditions have been favorable since the heavy rains early in November which damaged 40 per cent of the tomato crop and necessitated replantings. Shipments from both regions to date this season have been lower than during the corresponding period last season but it is still too early to venture any opinion as to what the situation may be for the season as a whole. This will depend mainly on the demand situation in the United States.

Mexican West Coast

Tomatoes

As far as Mexican West Coast tomatoes in general are concerned, and this product constitutes the bulk of the vegetable imports from that region, plantings were made unusually late this season and as a result shipments in volume were not expected until January and February. The first shipments for the season were made toward the end of November. Shipments up to January 1, 1932, amounted to 3,784,000 pounds as compared with 5,146,000 pounds during the corresponding period last season. This decrease is attributed mainly to late plantings this season. Guided by past experience many growers this season decided to favor late plantings in order to market their products as late as possible.

The cold wave which set in on January 4, 1932, is reported to have caused considerable damage to tomatoes. Earlier reports indicated that the damage in the most important producing area on the West Coast, i.e., that around Los Mochis, a shipping station for the Fuerte River crop, would be around 60 per cent. The latest reports indicate that the damage in the producing areas of Barraza, Verdura, and Paranjito, shipping stations for the Sinaloa River Valley, and in the Culiacan River Valley, a little further south, will range from 15 to 30 per cent. This would indicate a loss of from 15 to 60 per cent, depending on locality.

1/ Based on reports and telegrams from American Consuls at Nogales, Sonora, Mexico and Habana, Cuba.

The relatively small plantings of tomatoes early in the season have had a noticeable effect on the marketing of the crop thus far. It is estimated that from 35 to 50 per cent of the early plantings last year were destroyed by the heavy unseasonable rains and that the only money made from the tomato crop was made by growers who shipped during the latter part of the season. Plantings, accordingly, were generally made much later this year.

Total tomato plantings on the Mexican West Coast this season are still being estimated at 25,000 acres as compared with 30,000 acres during 1930-31. Several reasons are given to explain this decline, chief among which are the general economic depression prevailing in Mexico, the consequent shortage of cash, and the expulsion of a large number of Chinese farmers who had always financed their own crops. Growers in general experienced difficulty in obtaining financial backing for vegetable growing this season. As the United States Tariff Act of 1930 increased the duties on vegetables, shippers realized that they would have to deliver a higher quality product in order to make a profit from their operations. Many shippers and packers, accordingly, went into the growing end of the business themselves in the belief that they would be able to produce a better quality product, to grade more strictly, and to eliminate a larger percentage of the smaller sizes than the average grower.

It is the general opinion on the Mexican West Coast that the higher duties on tomatoes in the American market in the last analysis will result in closer grading and the elimination of the smaller packs rather than in actual curtailment of shipments. In other words such reductions as may take place in shipments this season, barring weather, insect or disease damage, will be more the result of the lack of capital with which to finance the usual acreage, than the result of the American duty. Under the present duty of three cents per pound shippers feel that they cannot risk sending anything but the highest grade product to the American market. The actual production of tomatoes on the Mexican West Coast is always much greater than the shipments to the American market. The quantities consumed locally or made up into by-products are insignificant. The balance is left in the field to rot. It is maintained that the demand in the American market is the chief factor controlling shipments. If market prices rule strong the usual quantities of tomatoes will be shipped or even increased this season. Prices received by tomato shippers during December ranged from \$3.00 to \$4.50 per lug, f.o.b., destination in the United States. These were considered very satisfactory notwithstanding the increase in the duty on June 17, 1930 from one-half cent to three cents per pound. The total imports of tomatoes by the United States from Mexico during the twelve months ended June 30, 1931, amounted to 82,890,000 pounds as compared with 116,821,000 pounds during the corresponding period of 1929-30 and 95,429,000 pounds in 1928-29.

#### Green peas

Shipments of green peas (grown mostly in the Sonora, Yaqui, and Mayo River Valleys of southern Sonora) from the West Coast of Mexico up to January 1, 1932, show a heavy increase over those for the corresponding period



last year, having amounted to 4,115,000 pounds as compared with 1,864,000 pounds the year before. Some damage was caused to the quality of the early shipments by the unusually warm weather early in the season. Later shipments, however, improved in quality. Prices received in the American market during the first two weeks of December ranged from \$7.00 to \$9.00 per crate. During the last two weeks of the month prices ranged from \$6.00 to \$7.00 per crate. The total United States imports of green peas from Mexico for the 1930-31 season amounted to 18,875,000 pounds as compared with 3,105,000 pounds in 1929-30 and 20,551,000 pounds in 1928-29.

No changes have been reported as yet in the earlier estimates of 10,900 acres for green peas this season as compared with 12,000 acres last season. The bulk of the green peas shipped from the Mexican West Coast always moves out during the four months December to March with shipments at their peak during January. The cold wave early in January was first reported to have done but relatively little damage to the green pea crop. Subsequent reports indicated that the damage was considerable. In general the quality of the green peas shipped thus far has been excellent. The pods are well filled and free from disease. It must be mentioned in this connection that the American duty on green peas on January 1, 1932, was further increased from three cents to 3.9 cents per pound.

#### Green peppers

Shipments of green peppers this season to January 1 have amounted to only 110,000 pounds as compared with 326,000 pounds during the corresponding period last season. The bulk of the green peppers usually moves out during the four months January to April. The area planted to peppers this season is reported at 2,550 acres against 2,800 acres planted last year. No definite information is available as to the extent of the damage caused by the January cold wave but it is reported as being considerable. In 1930-31 imports into the United States from Mexico totaled 6,055,000 pounds as compared with 9,158,000 pounds in 1929-30 and 7,738,000 pounds in 1928-29.

The green pepper growers have been realizing good profits for the last two or three years. As a result the acreage during 1930-31 was more than double that of 1929-30. The crop is especially favored by the Chinese growers who were preparing to plant a considerable increase in the acreage this season but due to the anti-Chinese agitation during August and September they were compelled to abandon their lands about the time they were ready to plant. Had it not been for this fact it is very probable that the acreage devoted to green peppers this season would have been considerably increased notwithstanding the change in the American duty on June 17, 1930 from 25 per cent ad valorem to three cents per pound. On January 1, 1932, the duty was reduced to 2.5 cents per pound. This reduction, however, came too late to have any influence on plantings. Prices paid in the American market for Mexican peppers during the last half of December ranged from 14 to 18 cents per pound.

UNITED STATES: Imports of specified fresh vegetables from  
Mexico, 1925-26 to 1930-31

Commodity	July - June					
	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Tomatoes.....	64,192	104,980	84,796	95,429	116,821	82,890
Green peas.....	9,090	14,277	14,441	20,551	30,105	18,875
Green peppers.....	5,350	8,938	10,602	7,738	9,158	6,055
	:	:	:	:	:	:

Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and from the annual reports of the Federal Horticultural Board and Plant Control Administration.

Cuba

Tomatoes

The shipments of Cuban tomatoes to the United States this season to the end of December amounted to 2,480,000 pounds. Cuban export statistics for the corresponding period of the 1930-31 season are not available but it is reported that the shipments this season have been considerably below those of last year. The United States import statistics show that tomato imports from Cuba during this period were 4,519,000 pounds, while last season they amounted to 11,774,000 pounds. Total imports in 1930-31 amounted to 26,043,000 pounds as compared with 18,168,000 pounds in 1929-30 and 25,601,000 pounds in 1928-29.

A survey of the Cuban winter vegetable areas late in October indicated that tomato plantings for the 1931-32 season were expected to be about the same as in 1930-31. At that time the general opinion was that if weather conditions remained favorable the shipments to the United States during the season would be larger than during 1930-31. During the entire 1930-31 season (October 1, 1930 to May 31, 1931) the United States imported 26,043,000 pounds of tomatoes from Cuba. Shipments from Cuba to the American market during 1929-30 amounted to 19,076,000 pounds.

Notwithstanding the fact that prices were good in the American market the usual amount of Cuban vegetables, especially tomatoes, have not been moving out thus far this season. As far as tomatoes are concerned this decline in shipments is entirely due to the fact that washouts caused by heavy rains at the beginning of the season damaged 40 per cent of the crop and necessitated replantings. The bulk of the tomatoes shipped from Cuba moves out during the four months January to April. The necessity for replantings has caused a slight delay in the movement of the crop this season.

Cucumbers

According to late October reports the Cuban plantings of cucumbers this season were expected to show an increase of from 25 to 30 per cent over those for 1930-31. At that time it was stated that with a continuation

of good weather the quantities available for export would be larger than during the 1930-31 season, when imports into the United States totaled 3,340,000 pounds as compared with 952,000 pounds in 1929-30 and 1,030,000 pounds in 1928-29. Most of the Cuban cucumber exports come from the Isle of Pines. Cuban shipments of cucumbers to the United States this season to January 1 have amounted to 668,000 pounds. Statistics giving exports from Cuba for the corresponding period last season are not available but during this period in 1929-30 the cucumber exports amounted to 692,000 pounds.

#### Lima beans

The Cuban Bureau of Vegetable Sanitation, which is charged with the duty of inspecting lima beans exported to the United States, estimated late in October that plantings of this product during the 1931-32 season would be 50 per cent greater than in 1930-31. Heavy rains, however, cut down the bloom so that the extent to which shipments are corresponding to increased plantings cannot be stated.

Shipments of Cuban lima beans to the United States this season to January 1 have amounted to 896,000 pounds. Statistics of Cuban exports during the corresponding period last season are not available, but in the corresponding period of 1929-30 they amounted to 453,000 pounds. Total imports of lima beans from Cuba during the twelve months ended June 30, 1931, amounted to 3,760,000 pounds as compared with 2,999,000 pounds in 1929-30 and 3,273,000 pounds in 1928-29.

#### Green peppers

The consensus of opinion among Cuban shippers late in October was that plantings of peppers would not be any larger than during 1930-31. The early crop was expected to be light but heavier shipments were predicted for January, February and March. Thus far this season exports are reported as being materially below those of last season.

Cuban exports of green peppers to the United States during the 1929-30 season amounted to 4,045,000 pounds. Export statistics are not available for 1930-31 but the United States imports from Cuba that season amounted to 3,059,000 pounds as compared with 5,078,000 pounds in 1929-30 and 4,479,000 pounds in 1928-29. The reduction in the American duty on green peppers on January 1, 1932, came too late to have any influence on plantings. It should be borne in mind that while the duty on green peppers is now 2.5 cents per pound, Cuba enjoys a reduction of 20 per cent from the regular duties.

#### Egg plant

Reports late in October indicated a decline in the Cuban egg plant acreage this season due to the financial condition of the growers. One exporter stated that on the main island of Cuba not more than 100 acres would be devoted to the production of egg plant for export while on the Isle of Pines the area would amount to about 150 acres.



Shipments to the American market this season to January 1 amounted to only 50,000 pounds. No statistics of the Cuban exports of this product are available for the corresponding period last year, but the United States imports from Cuba during that period amounted to 772,000 pounds. The United States imports of Cuban egg plant during all of the 1930-31 season amounted to 4,782,000 pounds as compared with 6,438,000 pounds in 1929-30 and 6,265,000 pounds in 1928-29. Effective January 1, 1932, the American tariff on egg plant was reduced from 3 cents per pound to 1.5 cents per pound. Cuba enjoys a reduction of 20 per cent from these rates.

UNITED STATES: Imports of specified fresh vegetables from  
Cuba, 1925-26 to 1930-31

Commodity	July - June					
	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	1928-29	1929-30	1930-31
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
Tomatoes.....	12,101	13,040	19,272	25,601	18,168	26,043
Cucumbers.....	460	1,075	1,030	952	1,702	3,340
Lima beans.....	1,229	1,033	2,729	3,273	2,999	3,760
Green peppers....	12,032	8,620	6,008	4,479	5,078	3,059
Egg plant.....	4,708	6,085	6,216	6,265	6,438	4,782

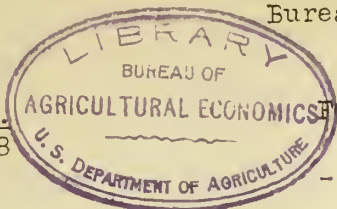
Compiled in the Foreign Agricultural Service from official records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce and from the annual reports of the Federal Horticultural Board and Plant Control Administration.



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Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Washington



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AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

October 24, 1932

WINTER VEGETABLE ACREAGE PROSPECTS IN CUBA

The outlook for the winter vegetable crop in Cuba is not bright, according to Vice-Consul William B. Murray at Habana. It is expected that plantings of practically all vegetables shipped to the United States will be reduced.

Tomatoes: Heavy rains damaged the early plantings of tomatoes, which were already reduced due to lack of funds to finance the growers. Later plantings may be made for a crop to be harvested in February and March, 1933, but the Cuban growers generally place more emphasis on the early crop, which is expected to be from 25 to 50 per cent smaller than last year. Plantings on the Isle of Pines are said to be 30 acres compared to 40 acres last year.

Lima beans: Although there is still time to make plantings of lima beans for winter shipment to the United States, growers expect this crop to be about 40 per cent less than that of last year. Local seed was used to some extent, which may account for the failure of some of the plantings. To date, the Division of Vegetable Sanitation, Cuban Department of Agriculture, reports that 750 growers have asked that their produce be inspected for export into the United States as compared with 885 requests in October, 1931.

Peppers: Although it is too early for a report on the total plantings of peppers, it is expected that this crop will be reduced at least 10 per cent. On the Isle of Pines acreage is said to be only 20 acres, while last year it was reported at 150 acres.

Cucumbers: The cucumber crop, which comes mainly from the Isle of Pines, will be smaller this year than last, since plantings are reported at 450 to 500 acres compared to 600 acres last year. On the Island of Cuba about 50 acres have been planted this year.

Egg plant: Exports of egg plant have been decreasing each year for some time, and plantings this season will be less than last year. On the Isle of Pines acreage is said to be only 50 acres, while last year it was 150 acres.

Okra and string beans: There is an increase in okra plantings, both in the short variety, grown for the New Orleans market, and in the long variety for New York. String beans also show a slight increase this year, but this vegetable is of minor importance compared with other winter vegetables shipped to the United States.

Potatoes and onions: Crops of potatoes and onions, which are grown for local consumption, will probably equal those of last year. Onions are now planted in San Cristobal and Herradura, in the province of Pinar del Rio, where vegetables for the United States market are extensively grown.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
CHICAGO, ILL.

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK

FOR THE YEAR 1911

BY  
J. H. HARRIS

Presented to the Faculty of the University of Chicago  
at the meeting of the Department of Chemistry  
held on the 10th day of May, 1912

The work of the Department of Chemistry  
during the year 1911 has been  
devoted to the study of the  
properties of the various  
forms of the element  
hydrogen.

The first part of the work  
has been devoted to the study  
of the properties of the  
element hydrogen.

The second part of the work  
has been devoted to the study  
of the properties of the  
element hydrogen.

The third part of the work  
has been devoted to the study  
of the properties of the  
element hydrogen.

The fourth part of the work  
has been devoted to the study  
of the properties of the  
element hydrogen.

The fifth part of the work  
has been devoted to the study  
of the properties of the  
element hydrogen.

The sixth part of the work  
has been devoted to the study  
of the properties of the  
element hydrogen.

The seventh part of the work  
has been devoted to the study  
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FOREIGN NEWS ON VEGETABLES

November 4, 1932

WINTER VEGETABLE PROSPECTS ON MEXICAN WEST COAST AND IN PUERTO RICO

Mexican West Coast

The area planted to winter vegetables on the Mexican West Coast for the 1932-33 season is expected to be less than last year, according to Consul Carlton Hurst at Nogales, Sonora. Plantings are now in progress. It is estimated that tomato and pepper acreages will show a reduction of 25 per cent compared with 1931-32. No change is expected in the green pea acreage but it is believed that the string bean area will be increased from 700 to 1,200 acres. The acreage planted to other vegetables is negligible. Weather conditions thus far have been favorable. The curtailed plantings this season are attributed to the heavy financial losses suffered by growers last season and to present economic conditions which are making it difficult for growers to secure adequate financial backing.

MEXICAN WEST COAST: Estimated 1932-33 winter vegetable acreage,  
with comparisons

Product	:	1930-31	:	1931-32	:	1932-33
	:	<u>Acres</u>	:	<u>Acres</u>	:	<u>Acres</u>
Tomatoes.....	:	30,000	:	25,000	:	22,500
Pears.....	:	12,000	:	10,900	:	10,900
String beans.....	:	-	:	700	:	1,200
Peppers.....	:	2,800	:	2,550	:	1,910

State of Sonora: According to Consul T. W. Voetter at Guaymas, Sonora, the vegetable acreage in Southern Sonora is at the present time being estimated as follows: Tomatoes 9,000 acres, green peas 19,000 acres, and green peppers 200 acres. This would seem to indicate a considerable increase over the area planted to these vegetables in this district last year. In a report dated November 14, 1931, the American Vice Consul, Mr. E. W. Eaton at Mazatlan, placed the tomato acreage in Southern Sonora for the 1931-32 season at 2,500 acres, green peas at 10,000 acres and green peppers at 50 acres.

Consul Voetter states further that a fair acreage has been planted in Southern Sonora this season to green beans. He also mentions that the Southern district of Lower California will this season probably have 3,000 acres under tomatoes. He further indicates that the estimate of the green pea acreage is likely to prove fairly accurate since planting is being controlled by the State authorities through agricultural associations.

State of Sinaloa: A telegram from Consul F. W. Hinkle at Mazatlan, Sinaloa indicates that the 1932-33 plantings up to October 1 were as follows: Tomatoes 22,200 acres, green peas 2,300 acres, green peppers 225 acres, and string beans 12 acres. It should be noted that these estimates cover only the plantings up to October 1 this year.

No satisfactory acreage figures for the State of Sinaloa for the 1931-32 season are available. On November 14, 1931, Vice Consul Eaton at Mazatlan reported that the areas devoted to the more important vegetables in the State that season were being estimated as follows: Tomatoes 22,500 acres, green

peas 900 acres, and green peppers 2,500 acres. On the other hand a report of the Southern Pacific Railway of Mexico submitted by Vice Consul Eaton on January 22, 1932, indicated that the 1931-32 vegetable acreage in Sinaloa was as follows: Tomatoes 35,274 acres, green peas 780 acres, green peppers 898 acres, and string beans 1,877 acres. In either case, however, the present estimates for the 1932-33 crop indicate a reduction in the tomato, string bean and green pepper acreage and an increase in the green pea acreage for the State. Weather conditions thus far are reported as favorable.

### Puerto Rico

The area devoted to winter vegetables for shipment to the United States in Puerto Rico this season is now being estimated at 1,810 acres compared with 1,043 acres in 1930-31, according to A. S. Mason, Supervising Inspector for the United States Department of Agriculture in San Juan, Puerto Rico. No acreage figures are available for 1931-32, but the area planted to all vegetables except peppers has been increased materially since 1930-31.

FUERTO RICO: Area planted to winter vegetables for shipment to the United States, 1930-31 and 1932-33

Product	1930-31	1932-33
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Tomatoes.....	250	500
Cucumbers.....	270	400
Peppers.....	402	300
Egg plant.....	32	150
String beans.....	4	100
Potatoes.....	-	100
Lima beans.....	-	100
Green peas.....	-	60
Others.....	85	100
Total.....	1,043	1,810

The recent hurricane and the low prices for tobacco have resulted in stimulating considerable interest in the planting of vegetables. Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and cucumbers will move later than usual this season because of the delays and damage caused by the hurricane.

### Virgin Islands

It is estimated that approximately 500 acres have been planted to tomatoes on the Virgin Islands this season.